

387

607

A
GENERAL PLAN

FOR LAYING OUT
TOWNS AND TOWNSHIPS,
ON THE NEW-ACQUIRED LANDS
IN THE
EAST INDIES, AMERICA,
OR ELSEWHERE;

In order to promote Cultivation, and raise the Value of all the adjoining Land, at the Price of giving *gratis* the *Town-Lots*, and, in some Cafes (as in new Colonies), also the small *Out-Lots*, to the first Settlers and their Heirs, so long as they possess *no other Land*; and on other equitable Conditions.

1794.

GENERAL INSTRUCTIONS

TO THE OFFICERS AND MEN OF THE

ARMY OF THE UNITED STATES

IN THE FIELD

BY

JOHN B. MURPHY

MAJOR GENERAL

OF THE ARMY

AND

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

WASHINGTON

1862

EXPLANATION

OF

THE ANNEXED PLAN.

THE town (distinguished by being coloured red) is contained in a square, each side of which is 4 furlongs, or half a mile; having a square furlong, or 10 acres, in the centre, appropriated to public offices (*viz.* a church, town-hall, guard-house, separate penitentiary lots (or prisons) for males and females; also schools for each sex, and a public caravanera for strangers and travellers, under the control of the constable on guard by rotation). The Breadth of the streets and highways is proposed to be the 8th part of a furlong, or 82 feet 6 inches; which will allow room for aquaducts wherever streams of water can be introduced from superior levels, and also room for planting ranges of spreading trees to shelter the foot-paths. And as the bounds of each square furlong meet in the centre of the streets, measured from the 4 external edges or sides of the town (coloured red), which are distant, each from its opposite side, 4 complete furlongs, or half a mile (4 inches by the scale), these external edges or lines of the town and the streets must be first laid out, that the remaining space, in each square furlong of the town, may be divided into *town-lots* in equal proportions, *viz.* 2 opposite sides of the town are appropriated to large town-lots of nearly one acre each for PLANTERS or FARMERS;

and as these *large town-lots* commence from the external edge of the town (and not from the centre of the streets, like the *small town-lots*), their length will be a complete half furlong, or 330 feet: In their breadth there will be some variation: The uppermost and undermost divisions of square furlongs, being measured from the external edges, or red lines, at the top and bottom of the town (as represented in this Plan), have a deduction of 41 feet 3 inches for half the width of the street on one side only; which, subtracted from 660 feet, the breadth of the furlong, leaves a space of 618 feet 9 inches for the breadth of 5 lots: Which space divided by 5 allows the breadth of each PLANTER'S TOWN-LOT, in the uppermost and lowermost divisions to be 123 feet 9 inches including the fences; and the PLANTERS *town-lots*, in the 4 central divisions (as the central divisions have a street on 2 sides), must lose 82 feet 6 inches from the width of each furlong, which being first deducted from the 660 feet leave a breadth of only 577 feet 6 inches to be divided into 5 equal parts, whereby the width of the PLANTERS *lots* in the 4 central divisions, is reduced to 115 feet 6 inches each, including the fences.

The size of the small town-lots will also unavoidably vary, and be of two different dimensions as to their *breadth*, though all are of equal *length*: For as they are measured from the centre of each square furlong to the centre of the streets, a deduction of 41 feet 3 inches (half the width of the streets) must be made from the *length* of half a furlong, or 330 feet, which reduces the length of each lot to 288 feet 9 inches. And 41 feet 3 inches being also deducted
from

from the *breadth* of the uppermost and lowest ranges of square furlongs, for half the width of the street, on one side of each furlong, the space for the width of 6 lots is thereby reduced to 618 feet 9 inches, which divided by 6 gives 103 feet 1 inch and half, for the width of each lot, including the fences: And 82 feet 6 inches being deducted from the central divisions, for half the width of the streets on 2 sides of each division, or square furlong, reduce the space for 6 lots to 577 feet 6 inches, which divided by 6 gives only 96 feet 3 inches for the width of the *small town-lots* in the *central* divisions, including their respective fences.

N. B. In old settled countries, where land is already of considerable value, it is not to be supposed that the proprietors of land can be induced to *give gratis* more than the *small town-lots* of half an acre and a few poles each, which with the roads and streets will amount to about 120 acres to be given *gratis* out of 2560 acres, or less than $4\frac{1}{2}$ per cent.; and the improved value of the remaining estate, most certainly, will amply repay the donation; as the value of land is generally doubled by the proximity of a town.

And as even this last proposed donation of 120 acres will be much too large a venture for landholders in general to risque in such an experiment; it is necessary to remark, that they may proceed on the half of this plan, quite as effectually, by dividing the town and township in the centre, whereby the land to be *given gratis*, or granted in *freehold* to the settlers, will not exceed 60 acres: And even with this

large reduction of the plan, space will be reserved for the families of 20 farmers or planters and of 68 artificers or labourers; and as the line of division in this latter mode will pass through the centre square of the present plan, 6 additional small town-lots may be formed in the space of half the square, and half of the public lots around it, which will enable the town, upon the whole, to contain 94 households. And if 6 cottages for labourers be added at the outer gates or avenues of the estate, the community will form a complete *hundred* of householders, which is a very respectable body of people for maintaining peace and good order according to the common law of England.

Whenever only *one half* of the plan is adopted, the side where the central line of division is made must be placed next to the water (whether the sea or river, creek or canal), and care must be taken that a sufficient *strand*, or space of *common land*, be reserved between the town and the water, that all the inhabitants may have equal access to the water-side.

PROOF OF THE MEASUREMENTS.

Amounting together to

Acres Rods Poles

| | | |
|---|---|--|
| 5 Large town-lots (marked A. B. C. D. and E.) of 330 - | by 115 6 or = 0 3 20 each = | 4 1 20 |
| 5 Do. do. (marked F. G. H. I. and K.) of 330 - | by 123 9 or = 0 3 30 each = | 4 2 30 |
| 15 Small town-lots (numbered $\left. \begin{matrix} 1 \text{ to } 3 \\ 10 \text{ to } 15 \text{ and} \\ 22 \text{ to } 27 \end{matrix} \right\}$) of 288 9 | by 96 3 or = 0 2 22 $\frac{9 \text{ or } 7}{10890}$ = 9 | 2 11 $\frac{27 \cdot 2}{10890}$ 1-half |
| 18 Do. do. (numbered $\left\{ \begin{matrix} 4 \text{ to } 9 \\ 16 \text{ to } 21 \text{ and} \\ 28 \text{ to } 33 \end{matrix} \right\}$) of 288 9 | by 103 $\frac{1}{2}$ or = 0 2 29 $\frac{408 \cdot 3}{10890}$ = 12 | 1 8 $\frac{81 \cdot 67}{10890}$ 1-half |
| 1 Public lot in one quarter of the central square. | | |
| 44 Town lots in one quarter of the town | | 18 2 2 0 |
| | | Acres Rods Poles |
| | | 33 1 30 |

Measurement of the Streets in one Quarter of the Town.

| | | | |
|---|-------------|---|--------------------|
| Half the width of the <i>centre Street</i> (horizontal on the Plan) from the middle gate (on the East, or right hand) to the public ground in the central furlong | Fect Inches | Fect Inches | Acres, Rods, Poles |
| | 990 0 | by 41 3 = 0 3 30 | |
| The whole of the next parallel street below, from the side of the town to the centre of the middle cross-street | 1320 0 | by 82 6 = 2 2 0 | |
| The upper part of the crossing-street in the centre of the quarter, measured from the corners of the lots at each end | 577 6 | by 82 6 = 1 0 15 | |
| The lower part of do. | 618 9 | by 82 6 = 1 0 27 $\frac{14 \cdot 5}{10890}$ or $\frac{1}{2}$ | |
| Half the width of the upper part of the cross-street in the centre of the town, measured from the corners of the lots | 288 9 | by 41 3 = 0 1 3 $\frac{81 \cdot 67}{10890}$ or $\frac{3}{4}$ | |
| Half the width of the lower part of do. | 618 9 | by 41 3 = 0 2 13 $\frac{81 \cdot 67}{10890}$ or $\frac{3}{4}$ | |

In 4 quarters of the same, as above, containing 176 lots, viz. for

| | |
|-------------------------------|---------------|
| 4 public officers | } multiply by |
| 40 planters or farmers | |
| 132 labourers, tradesmen, &c. | |
| $\frac{176}{-}$ | |

Total of acres in the whole town of half a mile square

160 0

40 0 0

4

6 2 10

In one Quarter of the Town.

PROOF OF THE MEASUREMENTS (Continued).

Number of acres in the whole town (coloured red) being half a mile square

The lesser Township of small Out-Lots, extending 2 Furlongs from each Side of the Town.

| | | |
|----|-------|------------------|
| | Acres | |
| 34 | | 160 |
| 1 | | 85 |
| 1 | | 10 |
| 1 | | 2 $\frac{1}{2}$ |
| 1 | | 22 $\frac{1}{2}$ |
| | | 35 |
| | | 120 |
| | | 4 |
| | | 480 |
| | | 480 |
| | | 640 |
| | | 480 |

In one quarter of the lesser Township.

Total of the common land adjoining the sides of the town
 Total of all the land in one quarter of the lesser township
 multiply by 4
 Total of all the land in one quarter of the lesser township
 multiply by 4
 Total of all the land in one quarter of the lesser township

In four such quarters of the lesser township, extending two furlongs from the sides of the town
 The whole town and lesser township in one square mile contain acres
 A farther extension from the lesser township of $\frac{1}{2}$ a mile, for 10 large out-lots of 40 acres each, to be added on the outside of one quarter, with 70 acres of reserved land and a common of 10 acres

And if a like extension be made on the outside of all the 4 quarters of the township, it will include 192 square furlongs of 10 acres each, which will allow room for 40 farms of 40 acres each, with a proportionable quantity of common and reserved lands, that may be afterwards wanted for other purposes
 Add the contents of the central town, and its lesser township of small out-lots in one square mile

Total: In a square district of 2 miles, containing $\left. \begin{matrix} \text{town} \\ \text{township} \\ \text{farms} \end{matrix} \right\}$ 2560 acres.

Conditions on which the Grants of Land should be made, for the peaceable Regulation of the several Towns or Communities.

THE Proprietors of the land should give, *gratis*, to each male settler, of good moral character, and of ability to labour, one small *town-lot*; and, in new settlements where few labourers can be procured, also one of the small *out-lots* of $2\frac{1}{2}$ acres, *gratis*, so long as they possess *no other land*, but no longer; for strict provision should be made in the grants, that no man shall hold 2 lots in the same town, even if an additional lot should fall to him by inheritance, or be acquired in any other way (for that would destroy the safety of the town, by decreasing the number of inhabitants); and that no lot which had once been given *gratis* should, ever afterwards, be either *sold*, or let at rent, to any under-tenant, or be added to any other lot, on the penalty of forfeiture to the first granter or granters, or to their heirs or successors, to be by them once more bestowed for the same benevolent purpose, on some other industrious tradesman, or labourer, who has *no other land* already in possession, that the number and strength of the little community may be maintained: And if the first granter, &c. should neglect such disposal of any forfeited or vacant lot, more than 12 months, the right of disposal, as above, should lapse, and be vested in the householders of the town where the forfeiture is incurred, according to the election of the majority of them in common council assembled.

But though the settlers may not sell, let, or enlarge their lots, when they acquire other lands
either

either by inheritance or otherwise, yet they may, nevertheless, be allowed to present in free gift, the possession of their lots (when so vacated by additional landed property elsewhere), on the same limited terms, to any person whom they shall think proper to elect, provided such person hath not already any other land in possession.

But with respect to the larger town-lots for planters or farmers, marked A, B, C, D, &c. they may be as appendages, or *homesteads*, to the farms, or large out-lots, extending beyond the *lesser township*, and of course they may be let, or sold, with those farms, as the proprietors or granters of the land may think best for their own advantage. And so likewise with respect to the *small out-lots* in the *lesser township*, whenever the proprietors of the land shall have reserved to themselves that power in their original grants.

And for the safety and happiness of each community, the land should be granted on the farther especial condition, that the settlers shall promise to keep watch and ward by rotation of *militia* service, under their own elected chiefs, that they may duly maintain PEACE, JUSTICE, and COMMON RIGHT, in their respective communities and folknotes, according to the common law of England in FRANKPLEDGE, which is the *only* effectual mode of obtaining *law, peace, and good government*, without expence.

A DESCRIPTION OF FRANKPLEDGE.

FRANKPLEDGE is an ancient patriarchal mode of arranging the families, or rather *households*, of a nation,

in numerical divisions of TENS (or *tythings*), FIFTIES, HUNDREDS (or *wappentacs*), and THOUSANDS * of *householders*, or *masters of families*, including all that either *rent a house by the year* (on which the right of *burgage*

* See Deut. i. 13—15. “*Take ye*” (or rather, according to the Hebrew, “*CHUSE YE to YOURSELVES*”) “*wise men and understanding, and known among your tribes*” (which necessarily implies that the tribes were to nominate), “*and I*” (said Moses) “*will make them rulers over you*” (i. e. the returns of the elections were to be made to Moses, and he was to invest the elected with public authority); “*and ye*” (said Moses) “*answered me and said, The thing which thou hast spoken (is) good (for us) to do.*” (Thus Moses, like a good politician, and faithful public minister under God, declared the *free assent* of the people, whereby the important measure he himself had proposed of establishing Frankpledge by the advice of Jethro, was enacted, and became a public law, or statute, of that nation (Israel), as much as it has been enacted to Englishmen by MAGNA CHARTA). “*So I took*” (said Moses) “*the chief of your tribes, wise men and known*” (that is, “*known among the tribes,*” as expressed in the 13th verse) which necessary qualification could not fairly be ascertained, unless the *known men* were really returned, or named, to Moses, as such, by the tribes themselves), “*and made them heads over you, captains*” (or heads) “*over THOUSANDS, and captains over HUNDREDS*” (what we call *hundreders*, or high constables), “*and captains over FIFTIES, and captains over TENS*” (or *tythingmen*), “*and officers among your tribes.*”

Thus it appears that the officers in general, from the colonel or captain of a thousand (whether of individuals or families), down to the serjeant, constable, or tythingman, were recommended, or rather nominated by the people, before they were invested with authority by Moses.

“*And I (said Moses) charged your JUDGES at that time*” (whereby it must of course be understood that the JUDGES also had been previously nominated by the people, as “*wise men and understanding, and known among the tribes,*” agreeable to the preceding enacted proposal); “*saying, hear (the causes) between your brethren, and judge righteously between (every) man and his brother,*

burgage tenure in England is founded), or live in their own houses, and pay their due proportion of public expences.

All such; by this most ancient and salutary system, were required to *pledge* each other; and to *pledge*, (or be responsible) for every other individual, living under their respective roofs; whereby *all* persons were rendered most completely, and readily, amenable to JUST LAWS (an indispensable condition of LIBERTY; because, neither LIBERTY, nor JUSTICE, can walk upright and secure, unless they go hand in

“ *brother, and the stranger* (that is) *with him*. YE SHALL NOT “ RESPECT PERSONS IN JUDGMENT.” (Deut. i. 9—17.) Compare this with Deut. xvi, 18. “ *Judges and officers shalt thou “ GIVE TO THYSELF in all thy gates throughout thy tribes, and they “ shall judge the people with JUST JUDGMENT, &c. and the rule “ for JUST JUDGMENT is NOT TO RESPECT PERSONS IN JUDG- “ MENT.*” But the colonial legislators, in all the European settlements of America and the West Indies, in order to favour and tolerate *slavery*, have suppressed this *indispensable* rule for “ JUST JUDGMENT,” for otherwise that abominable pagan oppression, *slavery* (which had been gradually abolished through the happy influence of Christianity), could not have been renewed under governments which still call themselves christian! But this hateful mark of reprobacy and delinquency of the nations, or rather “ *of the fulness of the Gentiles,*” I mean the baneful renewal of *pagan slavery*, will surely draw down upon the guilty nations a severe *retribution* from that Supreme Judge, who “ IS “ NO RESPECTER OF PERSONS IN JUDGMENT,” if they cannot find leisure from their bloody wars and destructive oppressions, for *repentance!* For the Divine *retribution* is clearly revealed in the Scriptures, that it will be “ *measure for measure;*” that “ *he “ that leadeth into captivity shall be led into captivity: He that killeth “ with the sword must be killed with the sword:*” For the ALMIGHTY has promised to “ DESTROY them who DESTROY the “ *earth!*”

hand)

hand) for every breach of the public peace, or for any breach even of *common morality*, or *decency*, that could be deemed hurtful or inconvenient to others in the judgment of an impartial jury of neighbours, subject to the previous challenge of the persons accused (or indicted), in so full and effectual a manner, *as to exclude all suspicion of partiality*; and this under MAGISTRATES and PUBLIC OFFICERS *freely elected by the HOUSEHOLDERS of every district*, for short probationary terms of power, never exceeding 12 months, without re-election by a majority of the HOUSEHOLDERS over whom, respectively, their delegated power extended.

It was a just and wise principle of *the ancient constitution of England*, to vest ALL ELECTION-RIGHTS in the HOUSEHOLDERS, paying scot and lot (or the ordinary public rates); but a farther extension of the franchise to *every individual of the community* (which some well-meaning friends to reformation have proposed) would be a *vain innovation*, that might perhaps prove as *dangerous* as it is, certainly, *inexpedient* and *needless*; because the *ancient constitution of FRANKPLEDGE* (which vested *the right of election* in the *householders alone*) is distinguished in the law-books * by the peculiar style of SUMMA ET MAXIMA SECURITAS (*the chief and greatest security*), a title justly founded on the practical experience of ages. And therefore, though *the first plants* to be cultivated in all colonies and communities are, most certainly, the

* See Lambard's Archionomia, inter Leges Edwardi Regis, cap. 20. de Friborg's, where FRANKPLEDGE is more particularly explained.

sacred plants of RIGHTEOUSNESS, PEACE, and LIBERTY, yet even these indispensable plants cannot so effectually take root and flourish, as when the happy soil of their cultivation is previously fenced by the establishment of FRANKPLEDGE with a due practical knowledge of NATURAL AND REVEALED RELIGION (the two *first foundations of English law*), contrary to which no *custom, maxim, or even statute* can be *legal*, according to the *common law* of England; which is only *common sense*, improved by the written revelation of GOD'S LAWS in the Holy Scriptures.

So indispensable to the constitution of England was FRANKPLEDGE deemed by our ancestors, that they justly required "THE VIEW OF FRANKPLEDGE," by an express article of their *great charter* (chap. 35.) "to be at the feast of St. Michael without occasion," i. e. without waiting for any other circumstance to authorise the view, than the mere annual return of Michaelmas, the usual season of holding it: And "THE TRYTHING" (by the same high authority) is required to "be wholly kept" (or "maintained entire) as it used to be" ("trithinga teneatur integra sicut esse consuevit"); because the efficacy of FRANKPLEDGE, in the ready administration of justice without expence, depends chiefly on holding "THE TRYTHING," which is the ^{Quarterly} ~~monthly~~ COURT LEET of "three or more hundreds" joined together; or, more generally, THE COURT LEET of a third part of a shire, or RIDING; derived from TRYTHING*; and

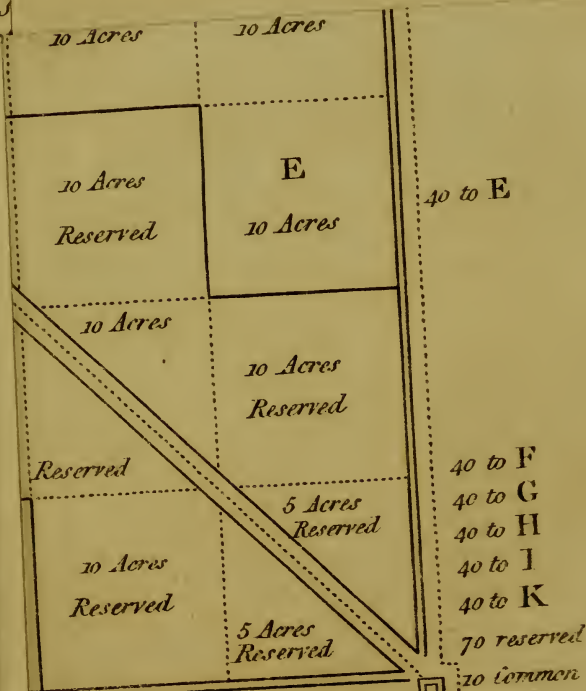
* See Camden's Britannia, Bishop Gibson's edition, p. 845. As the word *riding* is allowed to be derived from *trything*, it is very

and as both FRANKPLEDGE and the TRYTHING are thus, expressly, required by MAGNA CHARTA, they may lawfully be established wherever a *legal English government* is maintained; without any farther authority than the vote or agreement of a majority of the *householders* in each district.

GRANVILLE SHARP.

very probable that *ruding* has also the same etymology. See also "*Leges Edwardi Regis,*" cap. 34. de TRITHINGIS & LEDIS.

to in all 176
fo



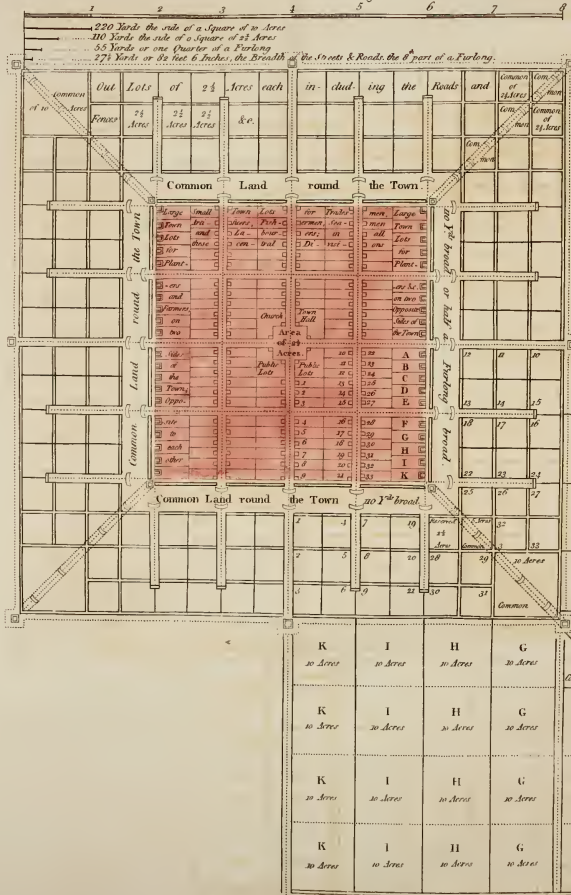
e of one Quarter, with 70 Acres of
which will allow room for 40 Farms of 40

| | |
|-----------|-------|
| 480 Acres | |
| 4 | |
| 1920 | |
| 640 | |
| 2560 | Acres |

PLAN for a TOWN and TOWNSHIP, to be laid out within the Compass of ONE SQUARE MILE, or 640 Acres.

Containing 40 Town Lots, for Planters or Farmers, having large Out Lots beyond the Township into Town Lots for 4 Public Officers, and for 22 Tradesmen Clerks, Attorneys, Fishermen, Seamen or Labourers, in all 750 Town Lots, with small Outlots, of a Quarter of a Square Furlong, or 25 Acres each for the said Officers, Labourers &c within $\frac{1}{4}$ of a Mile from each side of the Town.

A Scale of 1 Mile or 8 Furlongs.



EXPLANATION.

- Houses in the small Town Lots. ☐
 - Houses and Barnyards for Planters & Farmers, in the Large Town Lots. ☐
 - Streets and Roads. —
 - Roads or —
 - Common Road, Fence or Boundary.
 - A Ditch and Dike, having the Dike thrown up on the side next the Town, like a parapet or Entrenchment.
 - ☐ Small Reservoirs of Earth and Coal, for the use of Part of the eighth Grid.
 - ☐ Ponds or Entrenchments, to Command the several Arrows.
- N. All the Sides of the Out-Lots, extending upwards in various Lines, from each side of the Town and separated by single Lines, may be made with common Dikes and Rails or merely marked with boundary Stones, as the proprietors shall think proper; but all the Fences which are parallel with the Sides of the Town, and are expressed by double Lines, — ought to be formed in Ditches and Dikes, to be 7 or 8 Feet wide at the top, 3 feet wide at the bottom, and 3 feet deep, with a Gravel in the bottom of about 3 feet, or 4 Inches thick. The Ditches & Dikes will serve to separate or divide the Town, and to form very strong Ground round the Town, which will enable the Inhabitants, to defend themselves, against every common force of Invading Chiefs, or Robbers.



Scale of the Dike and Ditch



A further Distribution from the Township of $\frac{1}{4}$ Mile, for 20 large out Lots, to be added in the outside of one Quarter, with 70 Acres of reserved Land, and a Common of 20 Acres.

It is also to be made on the outside of all the Quarters in a 1000 square Furlongs of 10 Acres each, which will allow room for 20 Farms of 50 Acres each, with proportionable quantity of common reserved Land that may be advanced upon in other purposes.

All the remains of the General Town & Township of small Outlots in one square Mile.

E X T R A C T

OF A

LETTER FROM THE AUTHOR,

TO A

GENTLEMAN IN THE EAST INDIES.

FROM some late determinations in the courts of Bengal against Slave Dealers, and oppressors of the poor labouring natives (accounts of which have been published in our English newspapers), the Public here, in general, are well satisfied that the poor natives in India are *free*, and receive *wages for their labour*: And, consequently, all the most steady friends to the measure of *abolishing the Slave Trade* are solicitous to promote the use and sale of *East India Sugar*, in preference to that which is cultivated *by Slaves* elsewhere: So that you may be assured that the *Sugar Trade from India* may be immensely increased, and the value of the new-acquired lands in India may be amply advanced for the benefit of the Hon. East India Company (or of the proprietors of East Indian lands in general), if due care be taken by the Company's agents and servants to satisfy Europeans that the East India Sugar continues to be really the produce of *free labour*: And care must also be taken to prevent *West Indian* adventurers, or others, from forming plantations in any of the new-acquired

Indian lands (now become British territory) on any other plan, than that of *free labour*; that the baneful and iniquitous practice of “*exacting labour without wages*” may be effectually prevented, and be duly deemed as detestable among men, as it is, certainly, abominable in the sight of God! All imposing contracts for labour should also be vigilantly guarded against by the administrators of government in the several Indian departments; for, next after the *abolition of the Slave Trade and Slavery*, the most important consideration certainly is, how to place the poor labouring natives of India in such a happy state of permanent establishment, as may insure to them a general subsistence independent of the caprice and injustice of monopolizers, and the grasping speculations of mercenary adventurers; and yet, with such moderation in this little elevation of their condition, that they may still feel sufficient inducement to prompt their *industry* for the public good. To this point I have lately turned my thoughts, and have reason to think, that it may easily be effected, not only to the advantage and security of the industrious poor, and to the general promotion of trade in the numerous articles which the labourers, by a little elevation of their condition, will be enabled to purchase; but also, at the same time, to the *very great advantage and profit of the rich*. I mean those that have much *landed property*, and have thereby the power of carrying such a plan into execution. For by granting a very small proportion

tion of their lands to industrious labourers, upon the conditions I have proposed in the inclosed paper, they will be enabled *to raise the value of all the rest of their lands*: For by this means they will never be at a loss, either for *free labourers* to cultivate whatever parts of their estates they shall chuse to continue in their own hands, or for a sufficient number of well-known people among them, of approved industry, that may be *trusted to contract, as renters*, for the cultivation of the remainder of their estates in small portions, or farms, suited to their respective abilities, and at their own risque. And, by the same means (I am persuaded), the value of the new-acquired lands in India may be exceedingly enhanced, as well for the advantage of the natives as for the Hon. East India Company, and of all their agents and servants, in case the latter should be permitted to realize their fortunes (acquired in India) by investments of *landed property*, purchased either of the Company, or of the native proprietors; especially as the increasing demand for *East Indian Sugar* affords great encouragement for cultivating lands in India; and there are many other branches of husbandry, hitherto neglected in India, as the planting of *sago trees*, and a variety of other valuable *productive vegetables*, which would enrich the occupiers of land; and amply afford a due recompence to the industrious labourers.

I am aware, however, that my proposal, in the inclosed paper, of establishing *Frankpledge* among

the *Indian nations*, will be charged with objections too commonly deemed *insuperable* by Europeans that have dwelt among them, and who, therefore, ought to be best acquainted with their dispositions. The inveterate prejudices of the Gentoos, concerning the (imaginary) inscrutable antiquity of the Braminical traditions, and their (supposed) *unalienable* attachment to their religion, will be alleged. But how shall we venture to rely on the experience and consequent opinions of most of the Europeans that have lived among them, in a point, which they are so far from having attempted to investigate with candour, that many of them, through a lamentable neglect or ignorance of christianity and ancient history, have rather been inclined blindly to adopt, than to confute, the absurdities of Gentoosism?

One English gentleman, though he is neither deficient in understanding nor in experience and knowledge of the manners and dispositions of the Gentoos, has very gravely informed us of a great similarity between the *Mosaical Laws* and those of the *Gentoos*. But this gentleman (whose benevolent intentions I do not at all question, or even suspect) has not been sufficiently aware of “the *mystery of iniquity*, and the *working of Satan*,” the great “*deceiver of the nations!*” For all true religion is uniform in *righteousness* and in *justice*: Whereas the code of laws, which he has commended, abounds with *injustice*, *falsehood*, and *cruel oppression of the poor*, though some faint traces of *justice* and
morality

morality may seem to be dispersed among these laws for the more easy seduction of indiscriminate people, as “ *Satan will always endeavour to appear as an Angel of Light,*” and all his votaries wear a mask of very opposite features from those that are hid by it! But some even of the very laws which are included in this gentleman’s publication, and which are, thereby, exposed to the light of truth and common sense, afford ample confutation of his own remark; for by these it appears, that *the Gentoo laws* proceed by a *seven-fold* proportion of IN-EQUITY (i. e. a *numerical perfection* of IN-IQUITY), extorting from the poor Sooders fines of *seven times* the value that are required of the Bramins for *the very same offences*; though the *Laws of God*, declared by Moses (to which they have been very injudiciously compared), absolutely prohibit *any respect of persons in judgment*. And notwithstanding the pretended *mildness* of these laws, yet the cloven foot is apparent; for the Sooder is doomed to be *burned alive* for *fornication* with a Bramin woman, even though she should have been proved the first seducer; whereas the Bramin, for the abominable and irreparable injury to a female Sooder, even of a *violent rape*, is let off for a *small fine*! And this detestable and enormous iniquity is even established by an acknowledged law! Nay there is an express law to insure to the *Bramins* the gross privilege (which they claim for the indulgence of their lust) that “ *it is lawful for a Bramin to tell a lie to deceive a*

“ *woman.*”

“*woman.*” And yet with all these *abominable* privileges, bad as they are, their iniquity is still aggravated by the *blasphemous* falsehood, that their deceitful cast “*proceeded from the mouth of the Creator, other casts from inferior parts of his body, and the Sooders from the soles of his feet.*” Satan could not suggest a more malicious calumny against the *divine justice!* It is so evident a token of “*the mystery of iniquity*” and “*working of Satan,*” that we need not search farther in the *Gentoo Laws* for the declared “*Doctrines of Demons,*” the two revealed marks of “*the mystery of iniquity*” by which Christians are warned to know “*the man of sin,*” or *ὁ ἀνομος*, the *lawless one*, that was to prevail in the Roman Empire in the *latter times*, viz. “*forbidding to marry,*” and “*commanding to abstain from meats, &c.*”—though the poor *Gentoo*s are also grievously injured and deluded by the *last* of these marks. For as the interposition of “*deluding spirits*” is manifested, in the apostate church of the Roman Empire, by the open assumption of a *pagan title of priesthood*, PONTIFEX, and, still more especially, by that most presumptuous title of pretended *infallibility*, and *universal dominion*, PONTIFEX MAXIMUS, through which this dangerous usurper of unlimited power (under the masquerade of religion) became the *true* “*image of the beast,*” the former IMPERIAL PONTIFICES, or *Heathen Emperors*, who did not more haughtily suppress the natural rights of mankind than did their successors the PAPAL

PONTIFICES, in proclaiming *Crusades*, and in exciting lawless Princes to wage *bloody* and *destructive* wars against all persons that opposed their *image* worship, and other *antichristian* corruptions; and in establishing bloody *inquisitions* to maintain this horrible tyranny! So the same unnatural *interposition* may as evidently be traced to its *spiritual* source by the baneful fruits and bloody track of *inquisitorial* cruelty and tyranny manifested in the Laws of the Bramins lately published; as the cutting off the “*buttock of a Sooder, for sitting on the*” “*carpet of a Bramin!*” the *cramming a red-hot* “*iron into their mouths for repeating any words*” “*of the Beads or Shafter!*” and the *pouring hot wax into their ears* for sitting to hear them read! If the Beads contained any good, it would be consummate *Popery*, thus to prohibit the communication of what is *good from the vulgar*, like the universal prohibition of the Scriptures in the vernacular tongues wherever *the beast* prevails! But there can be no doubt, if the Sooders were duly protected by government from the fear of such *frightful penalties*, that they would not be backward to acknowledge their *just and equal claims to all the rights of mankind*. And I need only mention *these severe laws* as ample and sufficient proofs to confute the prejudices of gentlemen infallibly experienced (as they suppose) by their residence in India, respecting the imaginary *unalienable* attachment of the Hindoos to their false religion; for unless the Bramins themselves had known that the
other

other Hindoos were *much inclined* to think themselves *equally men* with the Bramins, and to be, thereby, entitled to all *equal rights* and *natural justice*, they would not have disgraced their code of laws with such enormities ! *Frankpledge* is the only safe mode of restoring these poor people to their *just rights*, and it was necessary for me, *thus far*, to guard against the obvious objections that would be made by many gentlemen who presume much on their own experimental knowledge of the Gentoos.

* * * * *

I remain, with sincere esteem,

DEAR SIR,

Your affectionate friend,

And obliged humble servant,

G. S.